

Town Manager's Report - Week of: 11/03/2017



Town Manager's Office:

- In the aftermath of the this week's windstorm a number of the Department Heads and I discussed the need to update the Town's Emergency Operations Plan and to start to implementing recommended improvements for how the Town will run as an emergency operations center. While I believe all the Town Departments did an excellent job in doing their part to respond to issues caused by the windstorm, it did serve as a reminder that we can always better coordinate our efforts.
- Many people in the community are probably aware that Pop Tech! will be held at Point Lookout in Northport in 2018. While Camden will not quite be the same without PopTech! next October we recognize the organization's need to evolve and do things differently. I had a long conversation with Leetha Filderman about the Town's long standing partnership with PopTech! and I'm hopeful we can broaden this relationship to work on a number of community and economic development initiatives that go beyond the conference itself.
- I wanted to bring to everyone's attention the amazing work done by Town staff who participate in our Safety Committee. Prior to the formation of the Safety Committee the Town was paying over \$250,000 per year in workers comp insurance premiums. Due to the hard work done by the Safety Committee, as well as our partners Joanne Billington at Allen Agency and Rod Stanley from MEMIC, the Town's premium has been brought down by over \$100,000 in one year. This is truly impressive and I want the Safety Committee to know that their efforts are recognized and appreciated.
- The Megunticook Dams Committee met last week to discuss the capital improvements planned for all the dams this year as well as over the next 5 years. Residents who live on the river are well aware of the importance of the repairs that need to be made to the Seabright Dam to permanently fix the leaks under the power station, which helped contribute to the incredibly lower water levels on the river this year, as well as the repairs that need to be made to the gate. However, the East Dam and to a lesser extent, the West Dam, also need significant repairs. It will be important to consider financing these repairs in order to lessen the impact they will have on taxpayers.
- I would like to thank Nikki Maounis and her staff at the Camden Public Library for taking the time to give me a tour of the entire building and grounds and explain their upcoming capital needs. While the Town is doing our long term capital planning it will be important to consider the Library's plans as well.

Wastewater Department

- Two engineers from Wright Pierce gave a wastewater plant upgrades presentation on Wednesday evening to the Camden and Rockport Select Boards and town managers. Wright Pierce was hired in 2016 to review the wastewater plant assets and provide an asset management plan covering

operation of the plant over the next ten years. Wright Pierce recommended replacing all the remaining original equipment from the construction of the plant. The plant has undergone two equipment upgrades since it was constructed in 1970, however a significant number of pieces of original equipment are still in operation. The operation of this forty seven year old equipment far exceeded the expected equipment life cycle of twenty years. The old equipment is now worn out, obsolete and/or inefficient based on currently technology. In some cases, new spare parts for this old equipment are no longer available. The upgrade of this equipment will help preserve reliable plant operation, lead to a reduction in energy use for some of the process and help preserve treatment performance during periods of process upsets. This presentation gave representatives from both towns an opportunity to ask questions of the engineers, and follow-up engineering is taking place as a result of this discussion. Communication between all parties will help ensure a future plant upgrade will meet expectations.

Public Works Department

- This week was far from normal operations for Public Works as well as other departments and citizens alike!
- We started the week out with a bang, with high winds and gusts to hurricane force! Public Works crews traveled the roads putting up barricades, traffic cones and Road Closed signs Town wide. Crews removed trees and brush where they could safely do so; many of the trees had taken down wires and utility poles making unsafe conditions for crews to remove trees until wires were cleared by Central Maine Power (CMP).
- Public Works crews spent the week removing trees and brush after conformation from CMP that it was safe to do so. We will continue to do so until the roads are clear.

Police Department

- There were 108 total complaints received
- 23 Patrol / Property checks completed
- 12 Radar Speed Enforcement checks at Knowlton, Washington, & Mechanic streets
- 2 OUI arrests
- 3 ACO calls; 2 being animal bites under investigation
- 8 Agency Assist calls
- 4 daily use of Drug Repository
- 1 National Drug Take Back event-total of 5 boxes weighing 137 pounds collected for Camden & Rockport. State of Maine collected over 41,000 pounds, the highest total in New England. (**See attached state wide list**)
- 3 Thefts of Property

- 3 Minor traffic accidents
- 1 fatal traffic accident
- 1 sex offense
- Officer Sam Butler completed Interview & Interrogations training
- Parking enforcement – 34 citations issued
- Jeff & Mark completed recurring ACO education
- Good Morning Camden & Rockport Program initiated, bringing Rockport residents on line. News releases in both Village Soup and Pen Bay Pilot being published
- Detective Andrick participated in a EMA table top exercise at Quarry Hill

Fire Department

- Continuing review of Code Enforcement educational materials
- Held several Department training sessions for apparatus operations
- With the assistance of Maine Fire Service Institute, we are providing a Basic Pump Operators Course for our personnel
 - The program is being taught by LT Rick Johnson of Rockland Fire
- Continued our maintenance program to upkeep apparatus & equipment
- We assisted the Police Department during an extended operation at a fatal motor vehicle accident on Route 1
 - FD personnel helped reroute traffic on Route 1 for over 6 hours
- Began preparations to assist the Town Clerk with hosting the elections in the apparatus bay of the Public Safety Building
- Provided fire safety presentations at CRMS, Montessori School, PeoplePlace preschool
- Continued our fire safety art contest at CRMS
 - This year's entries will be displayed on apparatus during the coming weeks
- The Chief attended several meetings of the Knox County Budget Committee to support the Knox Regional Communications Center
- During the severe weather event at the end of the month, personnel supported the Emergency Management functions
 - Coordinated with Knox County EMA to help with power restoration efforts
- Provided public education outreach for staff at the Anderson Inn and the Bayview Collection hotels

- Firefighters participated in flashmob on Pearl Street during Halloween
 - <http://z1073.com/watch-the-camden-fire-departments-halloween-party-dance-routine-video/?trackback=fbshare>
- Began planning our department training program for Jan - June 2018

Opera House

- The Opera House hosted an extremely interesting and successful Poptech in October. As you probably know, they have decided to try a new model next year and are moving the conference as an “un-conference” to Point Lookout, in their words.....” *In the coming year we are designing a new approach to gathering our community. Taking a break from our usual conference format, we are creating a more intimate gathering that captures the ‘can do’ spirit of our community, as well as our instinct to go deep on the topics of the day. We are planning a truly immersive experience that moves from listening to doing.*” The good news is that fascinating people will still come to our area. We wish them well as they evolve into their next iteration. The door will always be open for their return.
- Coming up we have elections, the annual Pecha Kucha, lots of films including the last CIFF Select of the year, a fundraising film for Ragged Mtn, and the start of the OHC annual Winter Family Fun Film Series with Disney’s Tangled in November and Home Alone in December. Holiday entertainment includes the annual Nutcracker Christmas by the Sea weekend, Natalie MacMaster and Donnell Leahy: A Celtic Family Christmas (tickets are flying out the door for that one!); Ashwood School Winter Revels.
- Current areas of focus are preparing the Annual Appeal, which supplements Opera House funds for programming and support; preparing Holiday decorations for the Opera House interior and exterior; and programming 2018 Opera House produced shows.
- Lastly, we are finally able to get to some housekeeping – updating website, box office and ticketing services and some facility upgrades and maintenance. Contracts are being reviewed and rewritten to include insurance obligations and parameters that will help lower the town’s insurance costs. And Audra and Jodi have us talking about our budgets! Earliest ever!
- Both Cory Raymond and Karina Shorten have quickly come online and up to speed and making a positive impact on operations.